

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04142 271555Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /099 W
-----005231 271559Z /50

P R 271432Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2219
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 4142

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PGOV IS
SUBJ: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT POSTPONED

REF.: TEL AVIV 3915

1. RESPONDING TO A FORMAL REQUEST BY HERUT AND THE NRP, THE KNESSET SPEAKER'S OFFICE MARCH 20 ANNOUNCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT FROM APRIL 5 TO APRIL 19. (KATZIR'S TERM EXPIRES MAY 28). THE NEW DATE WILL REQUIRE THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE KNESSET FOR THE ELECTION SINCE THE KNESSET IS DUE TO ADJOURN APRIL 5 FOR ITS SPRING RECESS. THE POSTPONEMENT RESULTS DIRECTLY FROM THE GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S DECLARED CHOICE FOR THE LARGELY CEREMONIAL OFFICE,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04142 271555Z

PROFESSOR YITZHAK CHAVET. HERUT AND THE NRP HOPE THAT WITH A LITTLE MORE TIME BEGIN WILL BE ABLE TO PUT A BETTER FACE ON WHAT HAS BECOME AN ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT FOR HIM.

2. DESPITE SOME EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE RACE, CHAVET ANNOUNCED AFTER A BRIEF MEETING

YESTERDAY WITH BEGIN THAT HE REMAINS A CANDIDATE. (SOME SOURCES SUGGEST CHAVET FAILED TO UNDERSTAND BEGIN'S HINT THAT A VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL WOULD EASE THE PRIME MINISTER'S PREDICAMENT. INSTEAD CHAVET INTERPRETED THEIR CONVERSATION AS BEGIN'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY.) UNLESS HE STEPS DOWN, CHAVET APPEARS HEADED FOR CERTAIN DEFEAT. EXCEPT FOR A FEW SCATTERED VOTES AMONG SEPHARDIC-ORIENTED MKS, ONLY HERUT, OUT OF LOYALTY TO BEGIN, IS EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR HIM. IF ELIMELECH RIMALT, STRONGLY HACKED BY THE LIBERAL PARTY, REMAINS THE ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT CANDIDATE, HIS VICTORY IS ASSURED, ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT HIS SUPPORT OUTSIDE THE LIBERAL PARTY IS LUKEWARM.

3. MANY MKS ARE HOPING YITZHAK NAVON CAN BE PERSUADED TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION LAST WEEK TO WITHDRAW. SINCE NAVON IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE HIS MIND UNLESS ASSURED OF VICTORY, THEIR SCENARIO WOULD HAVE CHAVET WITHDRAW AND BEGIN, HIMSELF, ASK NAVON TO BE A CANDIDATE. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, MOST OBSERVERS SEE NAVON PICKING UP MAJORITY SUPPORT IN EVERY POLITICAL GROUP EXCEPT THE LIBERAL PARTY. WITH THE FILING DEADLINE NOW APRIL 9 (BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION POSTPONEMENT), THERE IS STILL TIME FOR "DRAFT NAVON" SENTIMENT DEVELOP. LEWIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-1192
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780321/aaaaarjq.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1aab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 3915
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3191893
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT POSTPONED
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014